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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/586,943	11/01/2007	Claude Casses	003D.0106.U1(US)	6545
87120	7590	09/17/2009	EXAMINER	
Harrington & Smith PC 4 Research Drive, Suite 202 Shelton, CT 06484			VU, HIEN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	
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			09/17/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/586,943	Applicant(s) CASSES ET AL.	
	Examiner Hien D. Vu	Art Unit 2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/24/06&1010/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feature of claim 4 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

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As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

3. The specification is objected to because the following example on page 6, lines 17 and 19, different parts are referred to the same number "47". Applicant is required to review the entire disclosure and make correction where it necessary.

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The following features are examples that are confused, unclear or lack an antecedent basis: in claim 1, line 10, "the latter" and line 12, "characterized in that it" are confusing and unclear. Claim 4 features are unclear since they are not shown or disclosed the structure of the spring coupling. Claim 5, lines 2-3, "the rear face"; claim 6, line 2, "its rear face"; claim 7, line 4, "the level of said specific passage"; claim 8, lines 3-5, "the same direction" and "the points"; claim 9, line 2, "their free end"; claim 10, line 3, "the interior" all lack an antecedent basis. Claim 7, line 4-5, "at the level ... this purpose" and claim 11, lines 6-7, "the access of which ... operation" are confusing and unclear what being claimed.

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al (4973268) in view of Gooser (3989338).

Insofar as the claims can be understood; as to claim 1, Smith, Figs. 1-17 show an electrical connector part designed for being coupled with a matching connector part by a front face, said connector part comprising an insulating housing 30, 60 provided with a plurality of sockets 36 for receiving a contact 10 which have a rear contact insertion end, a joint 110 which is provided with a plurality of cable passages corresponding to the sockets and which is placed in said housing behind the sockets, and a grid 90 for guiding the cables 4 which is fixed in the housing behind the joint, said

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grid being provided with a plurality of cable passages corresponding to the sockets.

Smith does not show a blocking member of the passages of the grid which is fixed on said grid, and is designed to be pierced selectively for inserting the contacts into a group of predetermined sockets. Gooser, Figs. 1-5 show a blocking member G of passages of a grid B which is fixed on said grid, and is designed to be pierced selectively for inserting the contacts into a group of predetermined sockets. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the connector of Smith by forming the grid with the features as described above, as taught by Gooser, in order to achieve the selected passages to be connected with wires.

As to claim 2, Smith in view of Gooser discloses blocking member is a plastic film covering at least partially one face of the grid.

As to claim 3, Smith in view of Gooser discloses the film is fastened adhesively or bonded on the grid.

As to claim 4, in absence of any showing of the criticality by applicants, to form the blocking member being a plate that is fixed on the grid by spring coupling would have been obvious to one with skill in the art since such change solves no stated problem.

As to claim 5, Smith in view of Gooser discloses the blocking member fixed on the rear face of the grid.

As to claim 6, Smith in view of Gooser discloses blocking member having, on its rear face, markings for identifying the sockets.

As to claim 7, Smith in view of Gooser discloses blocking member G is adapted for preventing the insertion of a contact into a given passage in the absence of a prior piercing of the blocking member and to provide at the level of said specific passage by a tool designed for this purpose would have been obvious since such change is common in the art.

8. Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al (4973268) in view of Gooser (3989338) as applied to claim 1 and 8 above, and further in view of Crane et al (4824390).

As to claim 8, Smith does not show a tool for piercing the blocking member of a connector part comprising a body and a plurality of pins which project from said body in a parallel manner and in the same direction and which are designed to pierce the blocking member at the points corresponding to a predetermined group of sockets. Crane, Figs. 1-2 show a module 7 for piercing the blocking member of a connector part comprising a body and a plurality of pins which project from said body in a parallel manner and in the same direction and which are designed to pierce the blocking member at the points corresponding to a predetermined group of sockets. It would have been obvious to one with skill in the art to modify the module of Crane by forming a tool having features as described above, as taught by Crane, in order to achieve the selected passages to be connected with wires.

As to claim 9, to form the pins tapered at their free end would have been obvious since such change is old and common in the art.

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As to claim 10, Smith in view of Gooser and further in view of Crane discloses the body is designed to be engaged at least partially in a form-fitting manner from the rear in the interior of the housing.

As to claim 11, the claim recited method steps substantially corresponding to the device of claims 1-8; therefore it is rejected under the similar rationale.

9. Kwang, Van Der Sanden et al, Hamai et al, Tachi, Shiga et al, Casses et al, and Valasek, Jr. et al are cited for disclosure sealed electrical connectors.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Hien D. Vu at telephone number 571-272-2016.

/Hien D. Vu/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2839